



The Center for a Livable Future

June 24, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski,

As you prepare for markup of the FY10 Interior Appropriations bill, we urge you and fellow senators to oppose any amendment that would tie EPA's hands regarding climate change science or impede the Agency's ability to gather critical baseline data on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In particular, we urge your opposition to any amendment that would bar EPA from implementing its rule on mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases from manure management systems from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). Such an amendment would directly undermine a statutory requirement (authored by Senators Feinstein and Boxer and enacted as part of the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Act) providing for "mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions above appropriate thresholds in all sectors of the economy of the United States."

Congress wisely recognized that emissions data on all sectors are needed to craft effective climate change policy. Current data demonstrate that the industrial food animal agriculture sector is responsible for a significant amount of GHG emissions. For example, domestically, manure management and enteric fermentation are responsible for about one-third of all methane emissions, and methane is 25 times more potent a GHG than carbon dioxide. In 2007, methane emissions from manure management were 45% higher than in 1990. The EPA notes that the majority of this increase was from swine and dairy cow manure (where emissions increased 51 and 60 percent, respectively), and that one reason for the increase is the shift toward confining livestock in facilities that use liquid manure management systems. Given this, there is much to be learned about how those emissions can be addressed by changes in standards and practices.

The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, whose mission is to advance an ecological perspective in reducing threats to the health of the public, strongly opposes any provision that would prevent EPA from conducting a full assessment of GHG emissions from industrial food animal production facilities. We believe EPA is currently pursuing the best available science to learn more about GHG emissions from all sectors. That process must be preserved and allowed to proceed to completion. We urge you to oppose any amendment that would limit or

constrain the Agency's ability to consider GHG emissions from waste management related to industrial food animal production facilities. Such an amendment would undermine EPA's ability to properly evaluate the contribution of industrial food animal production on climate change, thereby limiting Congress' ability to make decisions informed by complete scientific evidence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Lawrence, Director

Dr. Roni Neff, Research and Policy Director

Dr. Keeve Nachman, Science Director for Food Production, Health and Environment

Mr. Shawn McKenzie, Program Director, Henry Spira Project on Industrial Food Animal Production

Ms. Rebecca Klein, Project Director, Agriculture & Public Health Policy Project

Mr. Ralph Loglisci, Project Director, Johns Hopkins Healthy Monday Project

Mr. Chris Stevens, Communications Director

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

Bloomberg School of Public Health

615 N. Wolfe St, E2150

Baltimore, MD 21205